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**Buckheit, James**

**From:** Victoria Gehrt [vgehart@kcsd.org] 2008 JUN 23 AM 10:13  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 3:32 PM  
**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION  
**Cc:** dpileggi@pasen.gov; cross@pahousegop.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment -Proposed Graduation Competency Assessment

I am opposed to the Graduation Competency Assessments for the following reasons:

We cannot truly validate through research that competency assessments are THE indicators for student success.

The extensive financial imposition upon school boards has not been thoroughly investigated.

The number of days that would need to be spent on additional testing rather than instruction is unconscionable.

The projected costs to develop and administer the GCAs could be better used for so many important school initiatives/programs.

The GCAs are not in the best interest or the right thing to do for our high school graduates.

Educational policy should be focused on effectively utilizing taxpayer dollars to improve student achievement in districts where needed or necessary.

The opposition to the GCAs comes from groups and individuals who have the best interests of our students in mind and who are extremely well informed and knowledgeable about doing the right thing for all the youth in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Vicki Gehrt

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